

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to the Budget Resolution for FY 2001 (H. Con. Res. 290). For the third consecutive year Republicans have chosen to provide large tax breaks for the wealthy. This Budget Resolution provides at least \$200 billion in tax breaks over the next five years for the financial elite of America. Furthermore, this resolution is a major down payment for George W. Bush's proposed trillion-dollar tax scheme. I will not standby while our children's future is bankrupted to fund this irresponsible Budget Resolution.

This budget contains deep cuts in domestic spending by \$114 billion over the next five years; fails to provide anything to strengthen Social Security or Medicare; cuts nondefense discretionary spending by \$19.7 billion in 2001 and \$138 billion over the next five years below the level needed to maintain purchasing power after adjusting for inflation; and pretends to reserve \$40 billion for a Medicare prescription drug benefit contingent upon essentially turning Medicare into a voucher program. Republicans have used slight of hand to hide the facts of their irresponsible budget by showing the effects of proposed tax cuts for only the first five years and not the full ten year projections commonly used during the last four years.

I am disappointed in the Budget Resolution because I do not believe that it provides adequate investment in our nation's future. America's future depends on that of her young people—in providing them adequate resources and opportunities to become our future leaders including providing them education and access to adequate health care.

The Budget resolution provides inadequate resources for the education of our young people. I firmly believe that we must focus our attention and our energy on one of the most important challenges facing our country today—revitalizing our education system. Strengthening education must be a top priority to raise the standard of living among American families and to prolong this era of American economic expansion. Education will prepare our nation for the challenges of the 21st century, and I will fight to ensure that the necessary programs are adequately funded to ensure our children's success.

We must provide our children access to superior education at all ages from kindergarten to graduate school. Recent studies emphasize the importance of quality education early in a child's future development. And yet despite

these studies, the Budget Resolution still inadequately funds programs that would provide for programs targeting children in their younger years.

In addition, we need to open the door of educational opportunity to all American children. It is well known that increases in income are related to educational attainment. The Democratic budget alternative rejects the Republican freeze on education funding and allocates \$4.8 billion more for education for FY 2001, than the Republican budget. Over five years, the Democratic Party demonstrates its commitment to education by proposing \$21 billion more than the Republican Budget Resolution.

The Congressional Black Caucus ("CBC") will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that promises to invest for the future of our nation. The CBC substitute is a budget that maximizes investment and opportunity for the poor, African Americans, and other minorities. This Budget for Maximum Investment and Opportunity supports a moderate plan to pay down the national debt; protects Social Security; and makes significant investments in education and training.

The CBC budget requests \$88.8 billion in FY 2001 for education, training, and development. This is \$32 billion more than the Republican budget provides. The CBC substitute will propose a \$10 billion increase over the President's Budget for school construction. Other projected increases include additional funding for Head Start, Summer Youth Employment TRIO programs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Community Technology Centers. In an age of unprecedented wealth the CBC has the vision to invest in the American family and not squander opportunities afforded by a budget surplus.

I will not support the failed policies of the past. Senator MCCAIN has best characterized this Budget Resolution as one that is "fiscally irresponsible." I support a budget that invest strengthening Social Security; provides an affordable prescription drug benefit for all seniors; helps communities improve public education with quality teachers, smaller classes, greater accountability and modern schools; and pay down the national debt. These are the policies that invest in our children and in the future of our nation in the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROTH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I honor an individual whose dedication to the community and the overall well-being of the 43rd Congressional District is notable. On April 1st, Mr. Richard Roth, will step down as the Chair of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce—a day that also marks Chamber's 100 year anniversary of service to the community. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly give their time and talents to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations. Mr. Roth has proved himself one of these individuals again and again.

Richard Roth has a long and commendable history of serving Riverside County. Currently,

he is a member of the Inland Empire Board of Directors for the Employer's Group, the civically minded Monday Morning Group and the Raincross Club. Additionally, in the past, he has selflessly served as Vice Chair of the Parkview Community Hospital Board, Vice Chair of the March Field Museum Foundation Board of Managers and member of the Board of Directors for the Volunteer Center of Riverside.

Richard Roth is a Managing Partner of the Riverside County law firm of Reid & Hellyer. He is also involved in the community as an adjunct instructor in Labor and Employment Law at the University of California at Riverside, Graduate School of Management and in the University Extension Division.

In addition to his private practice of law, Richard Roth is a Brigadier General in the United States Air Force Reserve. In this position, he presently serves as the Mobilization Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters Air Mobility Command and Reserve Advisor to the Chief Counsel, United States Transportation Command. In 1987, Richard Roth received the Reginald C. Harmon Trophy as the Air Force Outstanding Reserve Attorney and in 1992 he was named California Air Force Association Reserved Man of the Year.

Richard's outstanding accomplishments make me proud to call him my friend, community member, and fellow American. I thank him for his contribution to the betterment of the community and I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of Riverside County.

RECOGNIZING MARC COTTA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marc Cotta for his many years of service in the news industry. Cotta, who is currently the News Director for KJEO-TV 47 in Fresno, is retiring this week after 26 years of service in the broadcast business.

Starting out in 1973 with KSLY (of San Luis Obispo) and KTIP/K100 (of Porterville), Cotta got his early career start working on radio sales, news reporting, and announcing/production. He then spent 3 years as Assistant Program Director for KSLY, before moving into television. From 1978–1980, Cotta worked as a reporter and news sports anchor for KSBY (of San Luis Obispo). In 1980, Cotta moved to Fresno's KJEO, channel 47 and a CBS affiliate, where he worked as a television reporter. By 1981 he had already moved up to be the Sports Director for KJEO, where he served until 1992. From 1992 to 1993, Cotta served as Executive Managing Editor for KJEO. Because of his strong work ethic, attention to detail and ability to know a good news story, it wasn't long before the station promoted Cotta once again, this time to Assistant News Director, where he served until 1995. From 1995 to present, Cotta has served as News Director for KJEO in Fresno.

Cotta is a great news director. He's always on the hunt for the next story. He keeps a Rolodex a mile long with contacts throughout the Central Valley and indeed throughout California.